

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7404

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EO 1162: N/A

TAG: OEXC, EINU, ETRD

SUB: MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECT ON INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT

MARCH 21 TO APRIL 19, 1976

REF: A) STATE 7513, B) 75 STATE 296744

1. WITH RESPECT TO REFTEL A AND EXCHANGE OF MEMORANDUMS BETWEEN AMBASSADOR SMITH AND MARSHALL BERG, EMBASSY HAS FOUND PRIME CANDIDATE FOR PROJECT ON INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT. WE PROPOSE M. OUMAR DIARRA, DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, MINISTRY OF PLAN.

2. OUMAR DIARRA WAS BORN ON JULY 18, 1937 AT GRANDE-LAHOUE. HE HAS A DEGREE IN HIGHER ECONOMIC STUDIES FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS. HE IS AN ENGINEER AND STATISTICIAN-ECONOMIST. FORMERLY, HE WAS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IN THE OFFICE OF PLAN RESPONSIBLE FOR DRAWING UP THE FIVE-YEAR PLANS; HE WAS A MEMBER OF ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL FOR THE BANDAMA VALLEY AUTHORITY, AND AN ADMINISTRATOR TO THE OIL PALM INDUSTRY.

3. HE ATTENDED THE IMF/IBRD MEETINGS IN WASHDC IN 1971. AS DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN MINISTRY OF PLAN, DIARRA OCCUPIES A KEY POSITION IN IVORIAN ECONOMY, AS GOIC CONCENTRATES ON PROCESSING ITS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE, AND CONTINUES TO DEVELOP LIGHT INDUSTRY.

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4. EMBASSY WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE FALLOUT FUNDS TO PERMIT

DIARRA TO ATTEND MILTI-REGIONAL PROJECT.

5. QUICK JUDGEMENT IS REQUIRED A DIARRA WILL HAVE TO BOARD
PANAM 187, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, FROM ABIDJAN, AND TAKE BN 07
TO ARRIVE WASHDC ON MARCH 18, IN TIME FOR PROJECT,
WHICH BEGINS MARCH 21.

6 WE ALSO HAVE EXCELLENT CANDIDATE FOR MULTI-REGIONAL
PROJECTS OF FOOD SYSTEMS, JUNE 13 TO JULY 12. HE IS ROSSO
N'GUETTA, CHIEF OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, NATIONAL SCHOOL
SUPERIOR OF AGRONOMY UNDER MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. HE IS
FLUENT IN ENGLISH. HE WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPTIL, BUT WE
WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF FALLOUT FUNDS COULD BE HELD NOW FOR
THIS PROJECT, IF POSSIBLE.

7. AMBASSADOR KNOWS BOTH CANDIDATES WELL AND STRONGLY ENDORSES
THEM.
SMITH

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